

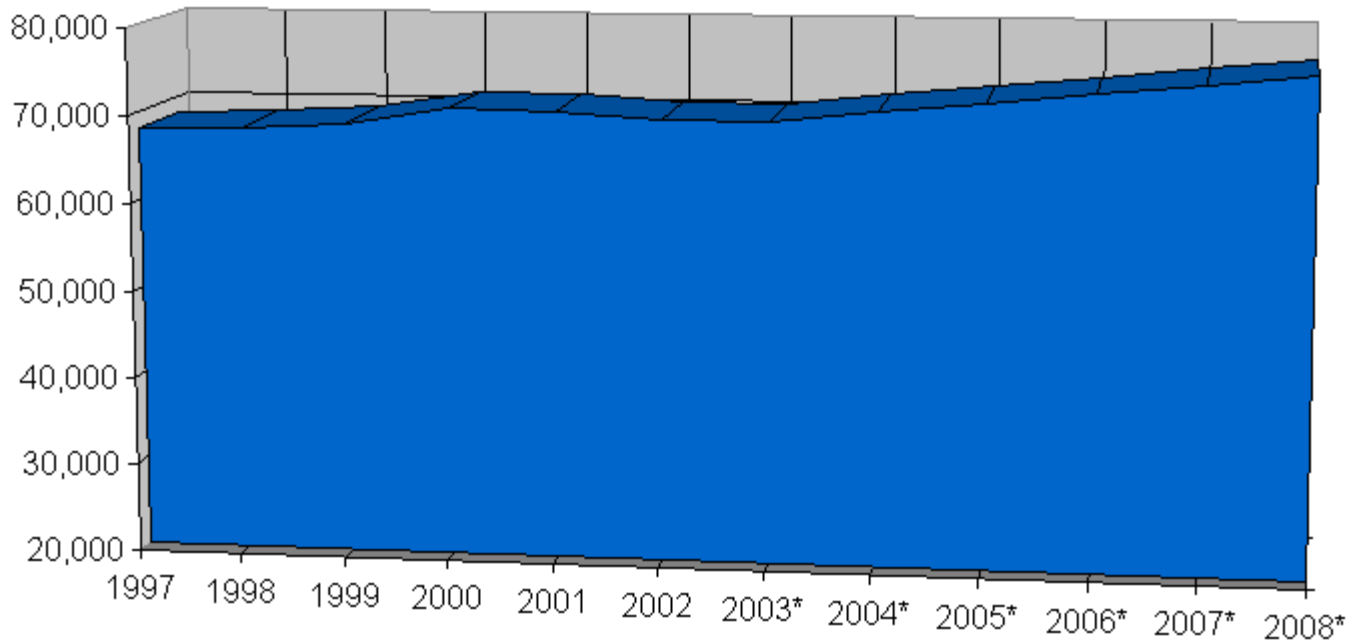
Wholesale and retail trade both play important roles in the El Paso economy. As with the other economic sectors, local commerce is directly influenced by proximity to Mexico. Retail sales consequently serve as an export engine for El Paso. The international and extra-regional domestic clientele for the local business sector travel from miles away in all directions to visit major shopping centers such as Cielo Vista Mall, Bassett Center Mall, Sunland Park Mall, and Las Palmas Shopping Center. The diversity of this customer base helped El Paso avoid much of the retail weakness noted elsewhere in Texas in 2003. With more than \$6.8 billion in sales in 2002, it is not surprising that total trade segment employment exceeded 70,200 for the year as a whole.

TOP TEN TRADE SECTOR EMPLOYERS

Employer	Type of Business	Number of Employees
1. Wal-Mart	Discount Retail	3,706
2. Big 8 Food Stores	Grocery Store	1,220
3. Albertson's	Grocery Store	784
4. Walgreen's	Drug Store	734
5. Dillard's	Department Store	700
6. Sam Club	General Merchandise	649
7. J.C. Penny	Department Store	532
8. Target	Discount Retail	500
9. K-Mart	Discount Retail	476
10. Helen of Troy	Personal Care Products	418

Source: Department of Economic Development, City of El Paso, June 2003.

El Paso MSA Trade Sector Employment Growth and Projections 1997 - 2008



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project, 2003

Trade Sector Employment Growth and Projections

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004*	2005*	2006*	2007*	2008*
Total Employment	68,127	68,506	69,184	71,080	70,881	70,225	70,281	71,482	72,675	73,850	75,025	76,259

Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project 2003
Annual Averages